

Application No. 10/765,850

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Claim 1 (Currently Amended). A document management device having a document storage unit for storing a document, comprising:

a usage permission information request reception unit configured to receive a usage permission information request from a usage permission information requesting client, said usage permission information permitting usage of the document storage unit;

a usage permission information generation unit configured to generate the usage permission information in response to the received usage permission information request; and

a usage permission information transmission unit configured to transmit the usage permission information to the usage permission information requesting client; and

a usage permission transfer unit configured to transfer the usage permission information from the requesting client to a second client connected to the requesting client via a network, the transferred usage permission information permitting usage of the document storage unit by the second client.

Claim 2 (Original). The document management device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the usage permission information generation unit generates the usage permission information and identification information of the usage permission information, and holds the usage permission information.

Claim 3 (Original). The document management device as claimed in claim 2, wherein the usage permission information transmission unit transmits the identification information to the usage permission information requesting client as the usage permission

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information.

Claim 4 (Original). The document management device as claimed in claim 2, wherein the usage permission information includes identification information of the document storage unit and authority information of the usage permission information.

Claim 5 (Original). The document management device as claimed in claim 2, wherein the usage permission information includes identification information of the document storage unit and effective period information of the usage permission information.

Claim 6 (Original). The document management device as claimed in claim 2, wherein the usage permission information includes identification information of the document storage unit and information of a maximum number of connections with the document management device.

Claim 7 (Original). The document management device as claimed in claim 2, wherein the usage permission information includes identification information of the document storage unit and information of a maximum number of operations of document storage in the document storage unit.

Claim 8 (Original). The document management device as claimed in claim 2, wherein the usage permission information includes identification information of the document storage unit and information of a storage capacity in the document storage unit.

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Claim 9 (Original). The document management device as claimed in claim 2, wherein the usage permission information includes a plurality of items of identification information of the document storage units.

Claim 10 (Original). The document management device as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

a usage request reception unit configured to receive a usage request from a usage requesting client for using the document storage unit; and

a usage unit configured to use the document storage unit according to the usage permission information.

Claim 11 (Original). The document management device as claimed in claim 10, wherein the usage requesting client is different from the usage permission information requesting client.

Claim 12 (Original). The document management device as claimed in claim 10, wherein the usage request includes information on the document and information on the document storage unit.

Claim 13 (Original). The document management device as claimed in claim 10, wherein the usage unit stores the document in the document storage unit according to the usage permission information.

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Claim 14 (Currently Amended). The document management device as claimed in claim 13, further comprising:

a document identification information appending unit configured to append document identification information for identifying the stored document to the usage permission information, said document identification information being appended as an editable data.

Claim 15 (Original). The document management device as claimed in claim 13, further comprising:

a document identification information transmission unit configured to transmit document identification information for identifying the stored document to the usage requesting client.

Claim 16 (Original). The document management device as claimed in claim 13, further comprising:

a document usage permission information transmission unit configured to transmit information for permitting usage of the stored document to the usage requesting client.

Claim 17 (Original). The document management device as claimed in claim 10, wherein the usage unit includes a determination unit that determines whether the document storage unit requested by the usage request is at a lower level than the document storage unit permitted for use by the usage permission information generated by the usage permission information generation unit.

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Claim 18 (Original). The document management device as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

a document list information request reception unit configured to receive a document list information request from a document list information requesting client for acquiring document list information of at least one document stored in the document storage unit; and

a document list information transmission unit configured to transmit the document list information to the document list information requesting client in response to the received document list information request.

Claim 19 (Original). The document management device as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

a document content information request reception unit configured to receive a document content information request from a document content information requesting client for acquiring information of contents of the document stored in the document storage unit; and

a document content information transmission unit configured to transmit the document content information to the document content information requesting client in response to the received document content information request.

Claim 20 (Original). The document management device as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

a connection permission information request reception unit configured to receive a connection permission information request from a connection permission information requesting client for acquiring connection permission information that includes the usage permission

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information and permits connection with the document management device;

a connection permission information generation unit configured to generate the connection permission information in response to the received connection permission information request; and

a connection permission information transmission unit configured to transmit the connection permission information to the connection permission information requesting client.

Claim 21 (Original). The document management device as claimed in claim 20, further comprising:

an identification information request reception unit configured to receive an identification information request, made by the connection permission information requesting client, for acquiring identification information of the document storage unit, said identification information of the document storage unit including the connection permission information and the usage permission information; and

an identification information transmission unit configured to transmit the identification information to the connection permission information requesting client that requests the identification information in response to the received identification information request.

Claim 22 (Original). A method of a document management device having a document storage unit for storing a document, comprising the steps of:

receiving a usage permission information request from a usage permission information requesting client for acquiring usage permission information that permits usage of the document storage unit;

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generating the usage permission information in response to the received usage permission information request; and

transmitting the usage permission information to the usage permission information requesting client.

Claim 23 (Original). The method as claimed in claim 22, further comprising the steps of: receiving a usage request from a usage requesting client for using the document storage unit; and

using the document storage unit according to the usage permission information.

Claim 24 (Original). The method as claimed in claim 23, wherein the usage requesting client is different from the usage permission information requesting client that receives the usage permission information transmitted in the step of transmitting the usage permission information.

Claim 25 (Currently Amended). A computer readable medium encoded with a computer program configured to cause a processor-based device to execute a method executable by a computer for operating a document management device having a document storage unit for storing a document, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a request from a client for acquiring usage permission information that permits usage of the document storage unit;

generating the usage permission information in response to the received request; and

transmitting the usage permission information to the client.

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Claim 26 (Cancelled).

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